

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 OES-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05

ERDA-05 INT-05 /056 W

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R 071305Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5233

INFO USDOC WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 4762

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: MAJOR ELECTRICAL POWER SHORTAGES ANTICIPATED FOR JIDDA
THIS FALL

1. EMBOFF, IN DISCUSSING POWER GENERATION PROJECTS WITH
VARIOUS SAG OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF U.S. FIRMS IN THE
KINGDOM, HAS LEARNED THAT THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION BUT THAT
THERE WILL BE MAJOR POWER SHORTAGES IN JIDDA THIS FALL.

2. THE DIRECTOR OF CON AM SERVICES, A U.S. FIRM WITH THE
OPERATIONS CONTRACT FOR THE JIDDA I DESALINATION PLANT
(A MAJOR JIDDA POWER SOURC), SAID THAT JIDDA WILL REQUIRE
AN ESTIMATED 200 MEGAWATTS OF POWER BY OCTOBER THIS YEAR.
CURRENT PRODUCTION IS APPROXIMATELY 150 MEGAWATTS.

3. E.A. JUFFALI, JIDDA'S LARGEST ELECTRICAL COMPANY, HAS
ORDERED NEW GENERATORS, BUT SAG OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIDED
THAT POWER GENERATION IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE PROBLEM.
THE ANTIQUATED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS SIMPLY NOT
CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE INCREASED FLOW OF POWER.
BROKEN CABLES WHIPPING FURIOUSLY AND SPEWING DANGEROUS
SPARKS IN ALL DIRECTIONS HAVE BEEN AN ALL TOO
OFTEN SIGHT IN RIYADH, AND JIDDA MAY SOON EXPERIENCE
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THIS AS WELL.

4. GHAZI AL-GOSAIBI, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ELECTRICITY,
RECENTLY PURCHASED A GENERATOR FOR HIS HOME. HE ADVISED THE
EMBASSY RIYADH LIAISON OFFICER TO DO THE SAME. THE
RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ELECTRICITY HAS
SIMILARLY TAKEN STEPS TO INSURE HIS HOME DOES NOT
BLACK OUT.
PORTER

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